

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/28/2008 has been entered. An action on the RCE follows:

Claims 1-9 were pending. Applicants have amended claims 1, 5 and 8. Therefore, claims 1-9 are currently pending and are under consideration in this Office Action.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-10, filed on 06/09/2008, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-9 has been withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-9 are allowable (1) for the reasons amended and argued by the applicant in the response filed on 06/09/2008. (2) Because the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEVIN M. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-7697. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571)272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KEVIN M. NGUYEN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2629